

**DELAWARE COMMISSION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 19, 2012**

Members Present: Thompson, Lardizzone, Carroll, Corsa, Evans, Goss, Harden, Keithley, Lank, Newstadt, Newman, Sarg, Wasson and Weir

Staff Present: Davila and Peterson

Introduction of Guest(s): Charles Quesenberry (VAMC Public Affairs), Bill McMullen (AF Sergeants Association), Bettylou Evans (American Legion), Jack Tillmon and Stephanie Young (Alliance of Disabled Veterans), Linda Boone and David Stroud (Home of the Brave), Walter and Jane Koopman (Home of the Brave Donation), JeanLuc Michaud (Ambassador for Rene Bonnet family), James Collins (SOS), Michelle Lee (Community Blue Print) and Jean Goss

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to our Nation's Flag.

Chairman opened the meeting by introducing the guests.

Quesenberry reported that the dialysis and ICU have been temporarily relocated due to construction and they will have an acting Director until July 26, 2012, when the new director will be announced. He also discussed issues the VA has been facing with hiring healthcare providers in Sussex Co., which prompted questions and discussion.

Mr. Stroud provided an update for the *Home of the Brave* and spoke about a few of their newest residents and discussion followed. Ms. Boone answered questions about current fundraising efforts.

There was a check donation presented by JeanLuc Michaud and Walter Koopman to the future *Home of the Brave* women's shelter.

Mr. Peterson provided an update for the Delaware Veterans Home and spoke about current admissions issues.

**MOTION BY HARDEN TO ACCEPT MAY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES,
SECONDED BY GOSS, MOTION CARRIED.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

NORTHERN CEMETERY

Commissioner Harden reported on the Rotary Club trees, fountain, employment changes and the Gettysburg plaque. She announced the preconstruction meeting for the road overlay will be on June 26, 2012, and the contract for the gravemarker realignment has been awarded.

SOUTHERN CEMETERY

Commissioner Evens reported that there have been some landscaping improvements and they recently held a successful Flag Day Ceremony on June 14, 2012. The Family Advisory Cemetery Committee (FACC) will meet on July 18, 2012, at which time the virtual visitation program will be viewed.

HEALTH SERVICES

Commissioner Corsa spoke about the Delaware Veterans Home, the VA CBOCs, and the *Home of the Brave*. He also thanked Mr. Koopman, Commissioner Goss and Mr. Michaud for their donations to the *Home of the Brave*.

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

Chairman Thompson indicated that legislation had been submitted to provide a bonus for the Iraqi and Afghanistan veterans. There was a question about the employer incentive bill and it was indicated that it was currently on the Governor's desk.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Commissioner Weir inquired as to the status of the programs for presenting veterans history in the school system and Chairman Thompson provided an update.

COMMEMORATIVE AFFAIRS

Commissioner Lank reported that Flag Day at the Southern Cemetery was a great success and stated that June 14th is also the Army's birthday. The next Commission event is Veterans Day at the bridge and MOPH will host that event.

ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS

Carroll (MOPH) – Their Department Convention was held in June at Dover Downs and they are preparing for their National Convention in Arizona.

Evans (American Legion) – This month is both "Boys State" and "Trooper Youth" week. Their State Convention will be held on July 7, 2012.

Goss (KWVA) – They have a Department meeting scheduled for next week and they are working on their State picnic that will be held in September 2012.

Harden (WAVES) – A number of WAVES attended the Newark Parade and their next meeting will be held this Saturday.

Lank (MOWW) – He attended a picnic that was hosted by the Delaware National Guard Officers Association.

Lardizzone (DAV) – Their State Convention will be held this Friday at Department headquarters and Saturday at the Sheraton in Dover. He is planning to go to their National headquarters in July and Las Vegas in August for their National Convention.

Newman (VFW) – They recently held their State Convention and they are preparing for their National Convention.

Newstadt (JWV) – They held their annual Installation meeting and he spoke about the Army “Twilight Tattoo” at Ft. Myer.

Weir (AMVETS) – Their State Convention will be held this month.

Mr. Davila reminded the organizations to provide the Commission office with an updated list of their department and/or post officers and contact information.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Collins indicated that he and Dr. Sarg met with Senator Bushweller, Representative Scott and a few other veterans’ representatives and they were asked if they could explore the possibility of having a registry of services available on the Commission website. He suggested that Tony Davila meet with GIC to discuss the possibilities. This idea inspired discussion and Mr. Davila provided an update on his current progress with the Commission website.

ITEMS FOR THE GOOD AND WELFARE OF THE ORGANIZATION

Ms. Boone spoke about the history of the Home of the Brave’s progression and challenges. Questions and discussion followed.

There was discussion about current House Bills, the changing process and importance of providing input to support bills.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: JULY 17, 2012 (10:00 AM)

**LOCATION: Robbins Bldg, 802 Silver Lake Blvd, Suite 100
Dover, DE**

ADJOURNED